What is claimed is:

1   1. An enterprise directory service apparatus, comprising:

2   a data store having a plurality of directory entries;

3   a web server having an API coupled to said data store, for
4   sending a query to said data store and receiving a directory
5   entry; and

6   a wrapper coupled to said API for accepting said query from a
7   user application.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said data store is a
relational database.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said data store is an LDAP
2   data store.

1   4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said web server has a
2   plurality of API coupled to said data store, each API adapted to
3   send said query to said data store and receive one of said
4   plurality of directory entries.

1   5. The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a plurality of
2   wrappers each said wrapper coupled to one or more of said
3   plurality of API, and each said wrapper adapted to accept said
4   query from one of a plurality of user applications.

1   6. The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising an API locator on
2   said web server for selecting one of said plurality of API in
3   response to said query from said one of said plurality of said
4   user applications.

1   7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said API is adapted to
2   receive one of said plurality of directory entries from said data
3   store and send said one of said directory entries to said user
4   application.

1   8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said API is adapted to send
2   said one of said directory entries to said user application
3   through said wrapper.

1   9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said API is adapted to
2   receive said one of said plurality of directory entries in
3   response to said query.

1   10. A method of providing directory service to a user

2   application, said method comprising the steps of:

3   providing a data store having a plurality of directory entries;

4   providing a web server having an API coupled to said data store

5   and a wrapper coupled to said API;

6   receiving at said wrapper a query from a user application, and in

7   response thereto sending said query from said wrapper to said API

8   and thereafter to said data store; and

9   receiving at said API a directory entry from said data store in

10   response to said query, and sending said directory entry to said

11   user application.

1   11. The method of claim 10, wherein said data store is provided

2   as a relational database.

1   12. The method of claim 10, wherein said data store is provided

2   as a LDAP data store.

1   13. The method of claim 10, wherein said web server is provided

2   having a plurality of API coupled to said data store, each API

3   adapted to send said query to said data store and receive one of

4   said plurality of directory entries.

5   14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of
6   providing an API locator coupled to said wrapper and said
7   plurality of API for determining to which one of said plurality
8   of API said wrapper should send said query.

1   15. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of
2   providing a plurality of wrappers, each said wrapper coupled to
3   one or more of said plurality of API, and each said wrapper
4   adapted to accept said query from one of a plurality of user
5   applications.

   16. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of
2   receiving one of said plurality of directory entries from said
3   data store and sending said one of said directory entries to said
4   user application.

1   17. The method of claim 16, further comprising sending said one
2   of said directory entries to said user application through said
3   wrapper.

1   18. A computer system for providing enterprise directory service,

2   said system comprising:

3   means for providing a data store having a plurality of directory

4   entries;

5   means for providing a web server having an API coupled to said

6   data store and a wrapper coupled to said API;

7   means for receiving at said wrapper a query from a user

8   application, and in response thereto sending said query from said

9   wrapper to said API and thereafter to said data store; and

10   means for receiving at said API a directory entry from said data

11   store in response to said query, and sending said directory entry

12   to said user application.

1   19. The system of claim 18, further comprising an API locator on

2   said web server for selecting said API in response to said query

3   from said user application.

1   20. A computer program product for instructing a processor to

2   provide enterprise directory service, said computer program

3   product comprising:

4   a computer recordable medium:

5   first program instruction means for providing a data store having

6   a plurality of directory entries;

7   second program instruction means for providing a web server

8   having an API coupled to said data store and a wrapper coupled to

9   said API;

10   third program instruction means for receiving at said wrapper a

11   query from a user application, and in response thereto sending

12   said query from said wrapper to said API and thereafter to said

13   data store; and

14   fourth program instruction means for receiving at said API a

15   directory entry from said data store in response to said query,

16   and sending said directory entry to said user application; and

17   wherein

18   all said program instruction means are recorded on said medium.

1   21. The computer program product of claim 19, further comprising

2   fifth program instruction means for providing a wrapper coupled

3   to said API for receiving said query from said user.